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644
ARTICLES,

DEPOSITIONS, &c.

A 409

OF THE.

PEOPLE

OF

New Providence,

IN

An Assembly held at *NASSAU*,

October the 5th, 1701.

A G A I N S T

Elias Baskett, Governor.

Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the Lords
Proprietors, and the Right Honourable the Com-
missioners of Trade.

A N D A L S O

Capt. *Michael Cole's* Narrative taken on Oath before a Master
in *CHANCERY*.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year, 1702.



To the Right Honourable the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Council of T R A D E ;

The humble and just Remonstrance of her Majesty's poor distressed Subjects the Inhabitants of Providence, and the rest of the Bahama Islands, late under the Tyrannical and Arbitrary Government of Elias Haskett, Commissionate under the Lords Proprietors of the said Islands.

Sheweth;

THAT many and great have been the Grievances and Oppressions that we the said Inhabitants have groaned under from several former Governors for at least these seven or eight Years last past, which with often and repeated Supplications we addressed the Lords Proprietors for Relief therein, who have hitherto not so much as taken notice thereof; but on the contrary our Original Petitions and Complaints, signed under our Hands, have been brought back by the succeeding Governors, who have made use thereof to Punish the Persons Petitioning, to Terrify others to do the like for the future; so that at present we are brought to that pass, that it is the greatest of Crimes for the Injured to complain.

This is the absolute Cause and Occasion of our laying before your Lordships our present State and Condition under our late Governor so much afore-mentioned (who hath not yet been six Months among us) omitting all our former Miseries, which would be too tedious to enumerate, but have been much of the same Nature, as the following Articles will more fully demonstrate, all tending to the same end, (*viz.*) Self-Interest of the Governors, to the Destruction and Ruin of the Subjects and Country.

A Breviate of the sundry Articles, shewing the absolute and necessary Cause and Reasons of deposing and taking into Custody Elias Haskett, late Governor of Providence, &c. for his Arbitrary and Tyrannical Government, until her Majesty and Lords Proprietors Pleasure be further known therein.

I. **A**S the first principal Introduction to the well-being and Christian-like living of the Inhabitants in all Governments, is by the Encouragement of the Church and Ministry, he the said *Elias Haskett* hath contrary-wise, some small time after his arrival here, deny'd the Country to allow their Minister his constant Sallary (and to that purpose made void, by his own Power, an Act appointed for the Confirmation thereof) which Sallary was raised by a Duty on Liquors and Sugars imported; and he
the

the said *Elias Haskett*, at his Arrival bringing a large Quantity of both, the Duty of which amounting to a considerable Sum of Mony, was absolutely the Cause and Reason thereof; and hath proceeded to Villifie and Defame the present Minister, a Man of Worth, threatening him to have him Whip'd through the Town: That by these means the Gospel hath not been Preach'd, nor any Ministerial Function Exercised amongst us for some Months past.

II. By his own Arbitrary Power and Authority he hath illegally Taxed and Imposed upon Her Majesty's Free-born Subjects and Inhabitants of this Government, a considerable Quantity of Brazaletta-Wood, the chief Commodity of the Country, to the value of Three Hundred and odd Pounds, to be cut by them for his Use as a Present, which he saith ought to be given to him, but Extorted from the Poor Inhabitants, denying all Trade and Commerce whatsoever till it was done.

III. Such People as would not Conform to these his unlawful and untollerable Impositions, he immediately on Denial thereof, on any sham Pretence puts into close Prison, and in Irons, where they were so strictly Confin'd, that their nearest Friends and Relations are deny'd either Sight or Conversation with them: By which barbarous Usage, several Persons have been forced for Safety of their Lives, to Ransom themselves by large Sums of Mony, some a Hundred Pounds, and others Fifty, and so proportionable to their Abilities. And all this done, both Imprisonment and Discharged, without any manner of Process or Colour of Law whatsoever, but by his own Arbitrary Power and Command.

IV. He demands the fifth Part of all Brazaletta-Wood, cut for the use of the Lords Proprietors, contrary to all former Instructions given to any of their former Governours, as also the sixth Part of *Tortois-Shell* (takes the same Sum of the Inhabitants) never before so much as Demanded or thought of, to the great Discouragement of the Inhabitants to seek or labour for those Commodities.

V. His Commission and Instructions, relating to the Demanding of the aforesaid Duties, in behalf of the Lords Proprietors, being required by the Council to be Perused and Recorded, as is usually heretofore done by all former Governours, was by him denied to be shewed or produced.

VI. He Imposeth excessive Post Charges on all Vessels Trading hither, contrary to all Laws heretofore made, or any now in being; both upon Strangers and Inhabitants, to the utter Ruin and Discouraging of all Trade and Commerce.

VII. He Denies and makes Void all Acts heretofore made in the time of the late Deputy Governor; yet on several Occasions, where any Laws made to serve himself, will allow of them.

VIII. Instead of calling of an Assembly for to enact new Laws or to confirm those heretofore made (which he calls Illegal and Void) he prevents all further Meeting of the Assembly to regulate those Matters, and threatned the Speaker of the Assembly to Shoot him through the Head for Speaking modestly in behalf of the Country on that Occasion, Proroguing and Dissolving at his own Pleasure; and when an Act against Monopolizing was sent to him and Council from the Assembly for Confirmation, he ordered it should not be Read, but Thrown from the Board, and immediately Prorogues the Assembly for six Months.

IX. Whereas the principal Business of all Governments, is the keeping the Peace and Safety of Her Majesty's Subjects; he on the contrary, with

with his own Hands, Beat and Abused, several Masters of Vessels Trading to this Port, for only asking whether there was an Act of the Country for the Exorbitant Fees imposed on them, which by their unreasonable Largeness were not to be Demanded?

X. He being modestly asked by some indifferent Persons how such unreasonable Fees, and several Fines could be imposed on Persons contrary to Law? Made this short, but Tyrannical Answer, That there is no Law in your Country; what cannot I do?

XI. In a time of great Scarcity for Provisions, when the Inhabitants were ready to Starve, he Monopolized a large quantity of Corn, and disposed thereof to a *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Ship, which he said Corn was Transported out of this Government, to the great Oppression of the Poor Inhabitants; and did declare that if the said Corn were not Sold to himself, the Owners should not have the Disposal of it, and Traded himself with the said Vessel for a considerable Value.

XII. He Demands and Receives from Six to Nine Pounds for each License to Marry, and denies the Banns of Matrimony to be Published in Church according to the Cannons thereof; by which means the honest Intentions of several poor People, who cannot Comply with his unreasonable Demands, may by such Methods be in a manner forced to Live disorderly and incontinent Lives, to the discouragement of all Virtue, and encouragement of all Vice, and absolutely Destructive to all Governments.

XIII. Notwithstanding Her Majesty's Commissions granted to several Persons here, for the executing the Offices of Vice-Admiral Judge, and other Offices of the Court of Admiralty, he hath Constituted and Appointed the said several Offices, by Virtue of his own Commission, and in this as well as in all other Courts of Judicature, Acts by the same Arbitrary Power and Authority, as by several Examples of that Nature are ready to be made appear.

XIV. To strike at the very Root of Trade, Intelligence, Commerce, and all Correspondence whatsoever between Merchants, and all others, he, from the very first of his coming into this Government, intercepts Accompts, Bills of Lading, and all other Papers of what Nature so ever, which he breaks open, and detains as he thinks fit; and to that purpose imposed an unlawful Oath on all Masters of the Vessels, to declare and deliver to him all Letters they either bring in or carry out of the Government.

XV. What little Trade remains in the Government, which daily decreaseth by the several illegal Impositions therein, is all Center'd in himself, no Person being suffered scarce to ask the Price of a Commodity Imported, before he hath refused to Buy it.

XVI. To make appear what Regard he hath to Her Majesty's Officers and Interest in this Government, he most inhumanly Beats and Abuseth Her Majesty's Collector here, and Orders him to be put in Prison and Irons, and his Boat to be sunk when ever he went on Board any Vessel to Execute his Office.

XVII. After a Seizure made of a parcel of Claret and Brandy, brought from the *French* Port of *Cape Francois*, on *Hispaniola*, he Orders it to be Appraised by Two Persons by him appointed for that purpose, at an inconsiderable Value, and takes it all to himself, never suffering a publick Sail to be made thereof, as is usual in those Cases, that Her

Majesty might not be Defrauded in Her part of the true Value thereof.

XVIII. In a small time after, he Hires a Vessel himself, and gives Orders to the Commanders and Company, privately, to cut a Load of Brazaletta-Wood amongst some of the Islands of this Government, and the same to carry to the aforesaid *French* Port of Cape *Francois*, in *Hispaniola*, and there to be disposed of, and Returns made to him in Alamode-Silks, and other *French* Goods, and privately to be Landed in this Island; and this sort of Trading so Prejudicial to Her Majesty's Interest, breach of sundry Acts of Parliament, and particularly contrary to his own Oath taken as Governour, he had laid a Foundation to be continued so long as the Master and Company so Employed thought fit, and Encouraged all the Men to bring what Goods they pleased for themselves.

XIX. In Courts of Common-Pleas, and other Courts of Judicature, Established by the Laws of this Government, consistent with the Laws of *England*, in those Cases he hath imposed double Fees for all Process and Matters therein, and hath Constituted One of his own Servants Clerk of all Courts, and preposterously to act and plead as an Attorney also therein, denying any other; the whole Profits of which intollerable exorbitant Fees by him so imposed coming all to himself, by which means Right and Justice is bought and sold by him among us, to our intollerable Grief and Oppression.

XX. Whereas most of the Inhabitants of this Government have, and constantly have had, sundry parcels of Brazaletta-wood cut in several of the adjacent Islands, to bring to this Port for Trade and Exportation, he hath, and by many Orders to that end to Masters of Vessels, employed in his Service, given Instructions to take and load the same for his own proper Use, which can be no ways better deemed than perfect Felony.

XXI. In all Matters and Proceedings of Government, he hath never so much as advised with or consulted his Council, which by his Instructions he ought to do, but by his own arbitrary Power hath laid Embargoes, put out Proclamations, and done several other Acts and Things, and made it a high Crime for any one to ask the Reason thereof.

XXII. He hath taken up several Persons on pretence and suspicion of Piracy, on which account he made seizure, and took into his Custody all their Effects; and after a hard and severe Usage, and strict confinement in Irons, being sufficiently harassed, hath sent them private Notice what Sum of Money should purchase their Freedoms, which accordingly when paid they have been discharged.

XXIII. He, by his private Letters wrote to some of his Friends in *England*, gives them this Account, That he had not been in his Government not quite two Months, and yet had got two thousand Pounds, and hoped by next Spring to send home ten thousand Pounds, which he might well do (were the Country worth so much) by his illegal Oppressions and Tyrannical Ways which he hath used, as aforesaid, having in that little time he hath been here, not left Five hundred Pounds running Cash on the whole Island; several times declaring publicly, That he would not leave one Man in this Government worth a hundred Pounds before he had done with them; and in order thereto hath vilified and defamed the Inhabitants of this Government (as by a Copy of his Letter dated in

July

July last, directed To the Right Honourable the Lords of her Majesty's Council of Trade, will at large appear) under the Title of Pyrates, Villains, and the most scandalous People upon Earth, disobedient to all Law and Government; he by this means supposing to himself that after such a Character given, neither her Majesty nor their Lordships would hearken to any Complaints against him from so infamous a People as he described us to be, so that he might still, as he supposed and expected, persevere in his Villainous and Tyrannical Actions, to the utter Ruin of this Government.

XXIV. And to put a fairer Gloss on all his arbitrary Ways and Proceedings, he appoints a general Muster on the 25th of September, 1701. and having designingly drawn off the most substantial and sensible Persons of the Country, orders a great quantity of Liquors to be given to the remaining part of the poor ignorant People, who having plentifully drank and intoxicated themselves, a Paper was produced to them to be signed in the Name of the whole Country, the Intent and Meaning of which was not mentioned, but only told there was no Injury in it, but it was for the Interest of the Government, and refitting of the Fortifications, upon which about twenty or thirty illiterate Persons signed it, without further examining. But when afterwards examined and discovered, it was an Address to the Lords Proprietors, giving them Thanks for making choice of so good a Person as *Elias Haskett* for their Governor, who corrected Vice, and encouraged Virtue and Trade, with all other high Encomiums, diametrically opposite to the Rules and Methods he hath used, as by the afore-recited Articles; which poor deluded People finding how basely they were imposed upon therein, their Hearts making their Hands Lyars therein, are always ready to Testifie the same.

These and many more Actions of the like Nature, have been done and exercised by his Arbitrary and Tyrannical Power, Destructive to the Peace, Industry and Posterity of this Settlement, which if not timely prevented, must absolutely have been ruined and deserted; for who will take Pains for that, which when got, no Man can call his own? Or who will Fight for that wherein he hath no Interest, but such as is subject to the Will of another? The antient Encouragement to Men that were to defend their Countries, was this, That they were to hazard their Persons (*pro Aris & Foris*) for their Religion and their Houses; but by this Arbitrary way which is Practised amongst us, our Religion, as in the first Article afore-recited, hath been obstructed to be Exercised, and on the other side no Man hath had any Certainty of his House, or any thing else to be his own. These our present Grievances we thought fit to lay before your Lordships, humbly Requesting you will please to take into your serious Consideration, some proper and speedy Methods for our future Safety and Preservation, by representing this our Condition to her Gracious Majesty, and Council or Parliament, which your Lordships, in your Discretion shall think most meet and convenient, not only in the behalf of our Selves, but for the Interest of the Nation in general, in Respect to its Trade. This Government being so advantageously situated by Nature, in the very Center of *America*, may be made the Key of those *Indies*, a more particular Account, of which is already, as we suppose, come to your Lordships: We shall insist no further at present.

Present. But for these and several other Reasons, too tedious here to be Inserted, do Presume it is the absolute Interest of Her Majesty, and Nation in general, considering the present Circumstances of Affairs in *Europe*, that this Island of *Providence*, and Government thereof, be kept and defended from a Forreign Nation; and introductory, that its poor Inhabitants may be defended in their Lives and Fortunes, from such Grievances and Oppressions they have so lately suffered under, one great Cause of which we have just Reason to suppose was the unhappy arrival of *Every* here, together with the *Dutch Wreck*, from both which the former Governours at that time having gained a considerable Sum of Mony, which hath made so great a Noise in the World, that the succeeding Governours promising to themselves the like Success, and being frustrated therein, have betaken themselves to all illegal and irregular ways and means to ruin the Inhabitants to answer their own Ends, which hath caused one Remark to be made in this New Settlement, never known in any other in *America* before; That for this seven Years past, there hath not come from any Forreign Part above three Families to settle here, that have brought the value of fifty Pounds with them; and for no other Reason than the Avaritiousness of our Governours, who have created a Terror in those who have only come to take a view of our Country, with a design to have settled among us. Thus, with all due Obedience and Respect, we have laid before your Lordship's our poor Condition, not doubting your Lordship's sincere Aid and Assistance from our present Misery, to future Happiness; during which time we patiently expect, but earnestly remain,

Your Lordship's humble Servants

Dated at *Nassau* the
5th Day of *October*, 1701.

and Petitioners,

The Council for the Time being,

ELLIS LIGHTWOOD, President.

John Warren, Speaker of the Assembly.

Richard Taliaferro.

Thomas Gower.

Read Elding.

Thomas Williams.

Thomas Dalton.

Nicholas David.

A Copy

*A Copy of Haskett's Letter to a French Governor.**Worthy Sir,*

THE Honourable Character I have heard of you hath imbolden me to give you this Trouble in praying your Kindness to the Bearer who belongs to me, and I have only sent him in this small Boat to advise your Honour concerning Trade; which if You and my Self would secure, there is no Dispute but it would be very profitable to us both.

So desire you to send me in English a Letter, by reason no Person shall see it but my Self, what will sell with You and the Prices you will take the Goods at, and also what you can furnish me with, and at what Rates. I have sent you a very small Present, which is of the Growth of this Place, Two Cedar Bed-steads, altho' of small Value, your acceptance shall oblige me to be

*From the City of Nassau,
New Providence,
Aug. 4. 1701.*

*Honoured Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,*

E. Haskett.

This above-said Letter I do upon Oath, before the President and Council for the time being, declare to be writ by the late Governor *Haskett's* Order by me, and signed by himself to the French Governor of *Cape Francesway*, to be sent in a Sloop on the said *Haskett's* Account, to the best of this Deponent's Knowledge.

Roger Prydeaux, Naval-Officer.

*Sworn before the President and
Council, Oct. 8. 1701.*

Testis Tho. Gower, Secr. and Publick Not.

New Providence.

THE Deposition of *William Spatchers* being of full Age, declares upon Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, That he was Master of a Sloop called *The Robert and Martha*, some time in the Month of *August*, 1701. under the Command and Service of the late Governor of *Providence*, *Elias Haskett*; and that he this Deponent did then receive Orders and Instructions from the said Governor (as followeth) that is to say, he the said *Spatchers*, as Commander of the said Sloop, was to sail from this Port of *Providence* to some of the *Bahama-Islands* within this Government, and there to cut the said Sloop's Load of Firewood: But those Orders and Instructions given to this Deponent in Writing were on-
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ly to blind the World, for he the said Governor *Haskett* did verbally and positively order this Deponent, Commander of the said Sloop, for to cut the said Sloop's Loading of Brazaletta-wood, instead of the said Firewood, and the same to carry in the said Sloop to Cape *François*, being a French Settlement on the Island of *Hispaniola*, and the same there to be disposed of by this Deponent Commander, as aforesaid, and the Produce thereof to be laid out in French Commodities, as Alamode Silks particularly ordered, with other sorts of French Goods that he cannot at present remember their Names, and those Goods to be brought and landed privately, short of this Harbour; and that he this Deponent should in the Night send him the said late Governor word thereof: And gave further Incouragement to this Deponent to bring what Goods he this Deponent and his Company thought fit from the aforesaid French Port; and that he would give this Deponent and Company Fifty *per Cent.* advance: And further this Deponent maketh Oath, That he the said late Governor gave this Deponent liberty to carry on this sort of Trading as long as he thought fit.

William Spatchers.

*Sworn before the President and
Council, Nov. 7. 1701.*

Tho. Gower, Cler. Consilii.

Nassau in New Providence, Nov. 3. 1701.

T*Abitha Alfoard* being of full Age, and sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, declares, That on or about the Nineteenth of September, 1701. she the said Deponent carried to Coll. *Elias Haskett*, late Governor of *Providence*, at his House, the Sum of Fifty Pounds, *Providence-mony*, which said Sum was as a Bribe for the Inlarging of Coll. *Read Elding*, who was then a close Prisoner and in Irons; but when the said late Governor *Haskett* went into his Chamber and found it was not as much as he expected, he came out and delivered the said Sum unto the said Deponent, telling her and swearing, That if the said Coll. *Read Elding* did not send him Fifty Pistols, being the Sum of Sixty seven Pounds ten Shillings, that he should not be released. Whereupon the Deponent, by Order of the said Coll. *Read Elding*, was forced to go to one Capt. *George Graham* to borrow the rest, which made up the said Sum of Sixty seven Pounds ten Shillings, as afore-mention'd. And he the said Governor *Haskett* was not contented with that Sum, but told the Deponent, That Coll. *Elding* must also send him a rich Ring and a piece of Plate of Value; which said Ring and a Silver Tankard was carried and delivered by the said Deponent to him the said *Haskett* for a Bribe, as aforesaid; and also the Deponent carried some Pieces of dry Goods, and a Set of Gold Buttons, and three Gold Drops, all which was for the same purpose, as a Bribe. And further saith not.

Mark of
Tabitha X Alfoard.

*Sworn before the President and
Council for the time-being,
Tho. Gower, Cler. Consil.*

New

New Providence.

THE Deposition of Mr. *Benjamin Griffin*, being of full Age, and sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, declares, That sometime in the Month of *August*, 1701. he then was one of the Sloop's Company, called *The Robert and Martha*, whereof *William Spatchers* was Commander, which said Sloop was then under the Command and Service of the then Governor *Elias Haskett* of *New Providence*; and at the departure of our intended Voyage to *Cape François*, a French Settlement on the Island of *Hispaniola*, he the said Governor called together in his House, in a private Room, the said Commander of the said Sloop and Company, of which this Deponent was one, having first turn'd all other Company out of the Room, he then declared to them the intent of the Voyage, which was to this purpose: First, That they should depart this Harbour of *Providence* to some other of the Islands within the Jurisdiction of this Government, and there to cut a Load of Brazaletta-wood, which was in his Instructions to the Commander of the Sloop (called Firewood); the reason of which, as the Deponent heard the said then Governor declare, was for fear lest at any time the Instructions should be brought to Light or discovered; which said Load of Brazaletta-wood was to be carried to the said French Port of *Cape François*, as aforesaid, there to be sold, and the Returns made back hither in Alamode-Silks, both Black and Grey, Brandy, Claret, and other French Goods, and that to be privately landed short of this Harbour about four Miles. And the said then Governor did declare to the said Commander, and this Deponent, and the rest of the Company, That they need not fear the King's Collector, that Old Rogue as he call'd him, for he had him secur'd a Prisoner in the Fort. And further this Deponent sayeth not.

Benj. Griffin.

Sworn before the President and Council.

Tho. Gower, Cler. Consil.

Peter Corene, a French Man, one that went in the said Sloop, swore as above, in the open Custom-house, before me

John Graves Collector.

Capt.

Capt. COLLE's Narrative.

June 26. 1701. I arrived at *New Providence*, came just within the Point to anchor, the Governor's Boat came aboard and requested me ashore; I said I would wait on him as soon as I was drest, and could clean my self; but before I cou'd he fired a Shot at me, but soon after I was drest, and waited on him. When I came ashore he bid me welcome, but damn'd me, and ask'd, why I did not come sooner? I told him, I had not been an hour and half at Anchor, and that I thought was time little enough to clean and provide my self to wait on him: He told me I should pay Eighteen Shillings for the Shot; I said, it was not just to ask it, for I was not in fault. He churlishly askt for all my Letters, and charged me upon my Oath to deliver them every one in particular to him. I said, it was more than ever was demanded of me before, under any Government where-ever I was. He said, he did not care, he would have them. I seeing no Remedy laid them on the Table, and told him, as for the Publick Letters he might do what he pleased with them; but private and particular Letters of my own Business I would not deliver. The publick Letters he opened, and perused several of them before me.

About two hours after, I being in a publick House with him and a Gentleman of the Place (in Discourse) said, it was hard that every private Man's particular Affairs should be known by the Publick; I chanced to say, 'twas a barbarous Act: One Mr. *Lightwood* saying it was not just, the Governor presently drew on him, and swore Damn him, he would murder him; Mr. *Lightwood* clasping hold of the Sword prevented him, some others assisting, but he still swore and damn'd that he would murder somebody or other if they should contradict him in any such thing, for he would do what he pleased.

* I did not see this Action, but was credibly inform'd of the Truth on't

About 4 in the Afternoon he met Mr. *Graves* the King's Collector in the Street, and assaulted him after this manner, * You pitiful Custom-house Officer, you Rogue, if ever you go aboard any Vessel before my Boat has been, I'll Roast you alive, you Dog. Mr. *Graves* answered, his Commission ordered him to go aboard of all Vessels within that Government when he thought it necessary, therefore he was obliged to do it. God damn you, you Dog, reply'd the Governor, I'll go aboard you, and so set upon him and beat him with his Cane most severely; Mr. *Graves* endeavoured to defend off the Blows with his Hat, but he with the one Hand took hold of his Hat, and with the other beat him on the Head with the head of his Cane, with which he bruised him very much: Both his Eyes were black with the Blows, his right Hand he lamed so that he could not use it, and then committed him to the Fort Prisoner, and ordered Irons to be put upon him, as the Marshal told me. The next day I went to Mr. *Graves* in Prison, and found him very much bruised in his Head, and other Places which he shewed me; his right Hand lam'd so that he was forc'd to wear it in the Bosom of his Coat, it being very much swell'd; the Governor gave him liberty to come out of Prison this Morning.

Saturday the 28th I went to Mr. *Graves* to Enter, but he was so abused that he could not write my Permit: I did it as he Dictated, then he with much Pain signed it.

Sunday

Sunday the 29th appear'd in sight 2 Sail which give an alarm, being all at Arms in the Fort; some said it was a Red-Sea-Man; the Governor said, I wish it may, he shall be very welcome; but it proved a *Portuguese* belonging to *Agento* who left her Negroes on *Abbico*, having been in the Gulph and in great want of Provisions; he would not let any go aboard of her but his Creatures, that he might Ingross all the Trade to himself: I had several *European* Goods with Provision of *Carolina*, which he wanted. The Governor would have bought the Provisions of me, but at half the Price; I would not sell it him, for which (I was inform'd) he swore he would be revenged on me.

Soon after the arrival of the *Portuguese*, he endeavour'd to hire a Sloop to fetch his Negroes. The Governor would not let any Body agree with him but whom he pleased; at last he agreed with Mr. *Read Elding*, who was forced to promise to give the Governor one third of what he should agree for, as I was inform'd, which was 200 Pistols; they went for them, and in 3 days return'd back again. In this time several arbitrary Actions were committed on the poor People, who brought fresh Provisions to sell to the *Portuguese*; it being by the Governor's House where they came ashore, he seeing them took it away and paid what he pleased. If they went away seemingly not contented, he would Swear and Damn he'd cut off their Ears, as several told me.

Thursday Aug. 3. was brought in a *Bermudian* Sloop, which was taken by a Privateer which had the Governor's Commission, and Orders to bring in all Vessels they could find among the *Luccaa's* Islands (except those that had Clearings from *England*) as I was inform'd: They found this Sloop in Lat. 21. 15. mending her Sails, which by bad Weather she had split at Sea. They had nothing in her but Provisions for the Men. They took him by force of Arms, and brought him here to condemn him as Prize; then put two of the Men Prisoners in the Fort with Irons, after they had been before him; and, as his accustomed way was, Swears and Damns them, calling them Thieves, Rogues, Dogs, with Threats that he would put them to their Oaths against their Master, and God damn him if he catch'd them in the least Tittle not agreeing he would cut their Ears off, whip them, and hang them (as the Prisoners themselves told me;) the poor People being thus affrighted he gave them their Oaths on the Holy Evangelists; and a Lad about 18 years of Age being thus affrighted, did own that about two years ago the Sloop took in about 800 Bushels of Salt at *Turks* Island, which lies in Lat. 21 deg. 15 No. and not in the Jurisdiction of that Government.

Friday the 4th, the Sloop was to be tried, the Jury was summoned, but no Declaration filed, the Defendant could not know what he was accus'd of; but the Declaration was read in Court, and the Sloop accused for Loading Salt at *Turk's* Island: The Master could get no Body to plead his Cause, the People generally are so afraid of the Governor (he espousing the Cause and Prosecution) so that they durst not speak or do Justice in no Case, if he dictated the contrary, as they told me and as myself saw, he ruling those poor People by such an arbitrary Power that (if they should) be sure in a short time after they should be Cained and Abused as the King's Collector was; if not by some Trick or other, inevitably ruined by the Governor or his Creatures, as they said. The innocent Master of the Sloop not being able to speak in his own Cause, got a weak Fellow to do it for him, when he might there have pleaded his own Cause.

I askt why he did not in a thing so plain, where that Court had no Jurisdiction? He answered me, the Governor told him it could not be ended this day for he wanted Evidence, therefore he should ask time of the Court for the Master of the Sloop, which he did; the Court granted and adjourned till *Monday* the 7th.

Saturday the 5th early in the Morning I went to the Governor's Man, the Naval-Officer, to know my Port-Charges in his Office, intending to sail this day. He told me it was 3 *l.* 6 *s.* I answered, I never paid in any Port where-ever I was more than 16 *s.* He said also I must pay 70 pounds of Powder, or 3 *s.* *per* Tun, which at 70 Tuns, my Ships Burthen, is 10 *l.* 10 *s.* I said it was very unjust such Port-Charges should be demanded of me, when Law and Custom for the Place was no more than 15 *s.* Naval-Officers Fees, and half a pound of Powder *per* Tun; or in defect of Powder, at 2 *s.* *per* hundred. He said it was in vain for me to dispute it, for the Governor swore I should pay it. Then I said it must be in such Arbitrary Governments as this, otherwise they would not exact it. At 10 in the Morning the Governor went on board his Ship, and hoisted his Flag, and hove his Ship athwart the Harbour. Soon after he fired a Shot up the Harbour, and then two more at my Ship; and I was told he said of me, that I was a Prodigal Dog, sink him, I'll bear you out in't. At length I was told it was to put out my Colours; but my Men being gone about 5 mile for Dunnage, and I ashore with the Boy and Boat, so I had no Body to put them out: I presently order'd him aboard to do it, but before he could the Governor sent his Boat with six Men, and by force took them away. The People told me of it; I said, 'twas a Drunken Frolick, and to morrow they would send them again. The Governor came ashore, I did not go to ask for them, least his being hot in Drink should quarrel with me; he finding I did not come at 3 in the Afternoon sent for me, and churlishly asked why I would not pay my Naval-Officers Fees? I said I was ready to pay what the Law required, and more I ought not to pay, for his Demands was unreasonable. He added, if he had been there he would have broke my Head for saying, If I must pay it, it must be by Arbitrary Power, and not according to the Law. I said I did not say it to him, but to his Man, the pretended Naval-Officer. He swore, damn me, I should pay him presently before I went thence. I answered, I had not so much Mony about me; but if his Honour pleased I would leave my Coat in Pawn, rather than be Prisoner my self till I fetched it. He damn'd and curs'd me, and askt why I did not pay my Powder-mony? I said I was ready to pay what the Law of the Country required, which was half *th.* *per* Ton. He swore I should pay 1 *th.* for no Laws in that Country was in force till he made them. Then I said I was not obliged to pay any thing but what was customary. He swore I should pay what he pleased: I told him I was ready to pay what he pleased, let his Man the Officer give me a Receipt for it, that I might answer it to my Owners. His Reply was, No, damn you for a Dog, he shall not. Then I said, let me but bring two of my Men to justify what I pay, I won't differ with your Honour. To which he said, No, you Dog, I will not neither, nor you shall not go to the Pond to load Salt. If your Honour had told me so at first, I had taken other Measures: When your Honour told me I should have my Load of Salt at 5 *d.* *per* Bushel ready Mony, you told me of no such thing. He swore I should not go; I desired Capt. *Holmes* and Capt. *Edgle*, Commanders of the *Primrose* Brigantine of *Bristol*, to
take

take notice of it, if my Owners should call them to justify it; there being several other Gentlemen present, the Governor flew about Damning and Swearing; I thought it best to be gone lest I should be abused as the King's Collector was. At 6 in the Evening I was summon'd to wait on the Governor to Church (the following day) which all the Inhabitants are obliged to do, on pain of suffering both in their Persons and Interests.

Monday the 7th, at 6 in the Morning I went to the Naval-Officer to clear, who demanded 3 *l.* 6 *s.* for his Fees: I desired the Particulars for what. He answered, he durst not give it me, for he was but a Servant of the Governors, and durst not do it, for he was ordered the contrary. I said I would send my Mate with the Money; he said, he must not take it of any Body but my self, nor in presence of any Body. I then waited on the Court where I was summoned as a Jury-man in Tryal of the Sloop. The Court being sate, the Governor came in and set himself by the Judge, and called for the List of the Jury; and finding my Name there ordered me to depart the Court. I said I was summon'd a Jury-man; he dismiss me of that, and bid me be gone. I desired leave to stay and hear the Tryal, but he would not grant it: I was forced away. No sooner was I gone, but he swore I was an impudent Dog, and that he would break my Head before I went thence, before the whole Court, as I was inform'd. After the Governor had packed the Jury, he left them. On the Tryal of the Master of the Sloop, his Attorney desired them to prove the Jurisdiction of that Place, Turks Island; and by Evidence, if they would permit them, they would prove the Lords Proprietors Patent did not extend to them, but 'twas not granted; but sham Instructions of the Lords Proprietors were brought into Court, wherein, as the Judge would have it, the Lords had ordered, That if any Vessels Loaded there with Salt, they should be Confiskated, which the Jury took for granted. The Master and Attorney speaking in Defence of his Right, the Judge struck his Hand on the Table and swore, if they spoak a word more he would commit them both to Prison, as the Master told me; so Condemnation pass'd upon the Vessel, &c. At Two in the Afternoon I sent my Mate with 3 *l.* 6 *s.* to pay my Naval-Officers Fees; the Governor told him, it should not be received except I came my self, and called me Rogue and Villain several times, and swore he'd break my Head. I was forced to send 70 Pound of Powder, not daring to deny it lest he should murder me, having this day wounded a Man in two places in the Arm with a Sword; the Man was at least 65 years old, his Crime was only being on the Guard, and letting the Captain of the *Portuguese* Ship go into Mr. *Read Elding's* house, being just by whree they landed. I carried my Mate with me to desire at the Secretary's Office the Act of the Country for paying Port-charges, to justify before my Owners the Injustice done them, but could not get it. At 6 in the Evening I saw the Secretary go to the Governor, and, as I judge, told him of it: The Governor came to Town. Assoon as I saw him I made away from him, foreseeing his barbarous Treatment. He sent his Marshal after me, who brought me back his Prisoner. I forced my self into a House seeing the Governor coming with his Cane to strike me; the Governor and Marshal followed me, he beat me, pulling me by the Neckcloth, and the Marshal by my Arm, about the Floor, and abusing me in a most barbarous manner, cutting my Face with the Head of his Cane, and broke my Head so that I bled very much; then

then committed me in Custody of his Marshal and sent me aboard, Cursing and Damning me after his usual manner, saying, I'll teach you to ask Questions.

Tuesday Aug. 8th, being very much out of Order I sent my Mate ashore to clear, I being not able to go my self; he have given me so many cruel Bruises so that my Water looked like Blood. I was much afraid my Bruises would have proved mortal, being so pained in my Head, Back and Belly, I had been so dragg'd about the Ground by him and his Marshal. When my Mate came before him he curst him, and said he would break his Head, therefore bid him begone, as my Mate will justify: Then he sent for me ashore by the Marshal, but I was not in a Capacity to come: He then sent his Boat with 5 Men and a black Ruffin-Fellow Commander, a Molatta called *Bevos*, who came in a robust manner to my Cabbin-side, and said, the Governor ordered me to come ashore and bring my Ship before the Fort. I thought he would serve me as he had done the *Bermudian*; I told him I was not in a condition to come I was so abused by him. He said I must, if not they would fetch me: So with much Pain I went to the Governor. He then, after his manner, abused and curst me, and said, he'd teach me how to obey Commands. I said, I thought I was to obey the Laws: No, you Dog, I'll make you bring your Ship before the Fort, or else it shall be worse for you; so for fear of being murder'd by this Barbarian, I order'd my Men to do it. He further said, I did not tell him when I took in Braze-letto-wood, and for that my Ship was forfeited. I said I had a Permit from the King's Collector so to do, and that I had done nothing contrary to Law. He said, I had cheated in the Weight, and I should land it and weigh it. I offered my Oath, with the Gentleman's that I bought it off. But he said, he would take no Man's Oath. I left him, and my Ship was brought down before the Fort; and at two in the Afternoon the *Bermudian* Sloop was expos'd to Sail, she was bought for 335 *l.* *Providence* Mony.

Wednesday the 9th at 6 in the Morning I went to the Governor before he was warmed with Drink, to get him to accept the Peoples Oath, I bought the Wood of, tho' before it was never customary; at last he said he would, but by God I should not go to the Pond to fetch Salt, but should hire Sloops to fetch it; and said he would hire me the Sloop which he took from the *Bermudian* the day past. I thanked him, and said I would consider of it; but was resolv'd to have nothing to do with him, who had no Law but his Will. Capt. *Doudle* told him it was not prudent to meddle with a *London* Ship, for I would surely acquaint the Government in *England* of it; he answered he did not care, for he was far enough off them.

Thursday the 10th, the Gentlemen I bought the Wood of gave their Oaths of the Weight, I also did mine, all this being out of Malice to put me to Trouble and Charge, because I would not suffer my Owners and Self to be cheated by him. And at 6 in the Morning I went to the Governor to desire him to let me go to take in Salt, which I had bought and was ready to pay the Lords Tenths. He said, he'd consider of it, and bad me come about two hours after: This delay was no other than to force me to pick my own Pocket, and give him. He sent one of his Creatures to me, who spake that Language, but I told him I could not do it. At the time appointed I went to him again; he then at last granted me liberty

ty to go on these Conditions, to say you shall take your Oath that you shall carry no Man's Letters off this Island, but shall first bring them to me to peruse them; and that I should pay for the Tenth of the Salt, after the Rate of 13 Pence half Penny *per* Bushel, which I bought for 4 *d.* half penny; but being in his Power, I was forced to comply with that and more. He asked me to present him with two Bever-Hats, I said I had none; he answered, my Pilot had: I said I must pay him 50 *s.* *per* Hat, which would be 5 *l.* His Creature the Judge being by, said, what signifies 5 *l.* place it to Account. I said, my Owners would not allow it me: The Governor swore by God he would have them, or I should not go; so to redeem my Self and Ship out of Confinement and Danger, I was obliged to comply with his unjust Demands. At 10 a Clock I sent a white Bever-Hat to him, he having a black one before. I went not near him my self, for generally in the Afternoon, with the addition of Drink, he's by many degrees worse than himself, who in his best Temper is the profligatest Person I ever heard tell of: The Inhabitants and Strangers are equally in danger of their Lives, if they do not give away what they have to him, or sell it at his own Rates. His Marshal is one of *Every's* Crew, and now stands outlawed by Proclamation for helping to run away with the Ship from *Corona*, as he himself told me. His Villanies are very notorious, and perhaps the only Recommendation; for something that has no Remains of Conscience or Honesty, is the only proper Instrument for *Haskett's* Actions.

Friday the 11th, at 6 in the Morning I went to the Governor to see if he would let me go; I told him I brought Mony to pay: He then seem'd inclinable to it, and soon after I paid him his Demands (being at his Mercy); I requested a Receipt for the Sum, he gave me one, but would not mention what Mony I paid him. He told me I might have my Bever-Hats again; I sent for them, but he returned but One. I got my Clearings, and bid Him and *Providence* farewell as long as he Governs.

Mich. Cole.

*Jurat' 18 die Maii 1702. coram
me Magistro Cancell.*

S. Keck.

F I N I S.

(54)

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